

[From a powerful article on the origin and history of the  
 Jesuits, in the last Edinburgh Review.]

As the vessel in which Xavier embarked for India left down the Tagus, and shook out her reef to the wind, many an eye was dimmed with un- wonted tears; for she bore a regiment of a thousand men to reinforce the garrison of Goa; nor could the bravest of that gallant host gaze on the receding land without foreboding that he might never see again those dark chestnut forests and rich orange groves, with the peaceful convents and the long-loved homes reposing in their bosom. The countenance of Xavier alone beamed with delight. He knew that he should never tread his native mountains more; but he was not an exile. He was to depart to a distant land, but he was to see the bounty of his fellow passengers; but he was going for the morrow troubled him. He was going to convert nations, of which he knew neither the language nor the names; but he felt no misgivings. Worn by incessant sea-sickness, with the coarse food of the lowest seamen for his diet, and the suffrage of the ship for his couch, he rendered to the distressed services too revolting to be described; and lived among the dying and the profane, gave the unwearied minister of consolation and peace. In the midst of that floating throng, he

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